

Peebles Denies Chief Secretly Picked

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Inside the Press

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GETTING READY TO KNOW her supervisors is Patti Campisi, representing the City of Torrance as she clutches tickets to the "Know Your Supervisors" luncheon to be held at noon, Oct. 3 at the Jump 'N Jack Restaurant, 2900 Pacific Coast Highway. Looking on are Jack Rogers, owner, left, and

Dick Pile, chairman, right. Guests of honor at the event will be Los Angeles County Supervisors Burton Chace and Kenneth Hahn. Tickets are available at \$3 per person at the Chamber of Commerce office, 2204 Torrance Blvd.

—PRESS photo

TWO TEENAGE GIRLS BEATEN BY YOUTH

WATCH IT . . . Traffic Laws Changed Friday, Sept. 20

Torrance drivers are asked by the California Highway Patrol to make note of Sept. 20, as on this day over 300 changes in motor vehicle law will go into effect.

Among the most significant changes—those with an immediate effect on your everyday driving—are those dealing with speed laws.

The basic speed law now requires drivers to use weather conditions and visibility as guides in setting a safe speed—in addition to the already established factors of road surface and width, and traffic conditions.

The amendment emphasizes the necessity for extreme caution when visibility is limited by such conditions as fog, blowing dust, rain, snow, etc.—conditions which greatly increase the chances of multiple, chain-reaction collisions.

California's basic speed law, though often misunderstood, takes precedence over all other speed laws. At no time may a driver proceed at a speed which endangers persons or property, no matter what the posted or existing limit may be.

A related measure which bears on the same problem is the redefining of darkness to include periods when visibility is insufficient to make any vehicle or person clearly discernible at 500 feet. At such times, vehicle headlights must be turned on.

The maximum speed law was amended to provide for raising the limit to 70 miles per hour (from 65 mph) under certain conditions and in specified locations.

The limit can only be established on freeways where access is fully controlled and there are no crossings at grade—and then only after an engineering survey by the Department of Public Works determines the 70 mph limit is both reasonable and safe, and the California Highway Patrol concurs.

The limit becomes effective only after signs are posted indicating a 70 mph maximum, as well as signs indicating that slower traffic must keep right.

Thus California's maximum speed actually remains 55 mph. School buses, cars pulling trailers, and farm labor buses, all of which are limited to 50 mph or less, are required to drive in the right-hand lane of multi-lane highways.

The speed limit in an alley is no 15 miles per hour. Trucks with three or more axles now have a maximum speed limit of 50 mph. Previously, trucks were restricted to 45 mph on two-lane roadways.

(Next—Right of Way laws in Friday's PRESS.)

Girls Sought For Color Guard

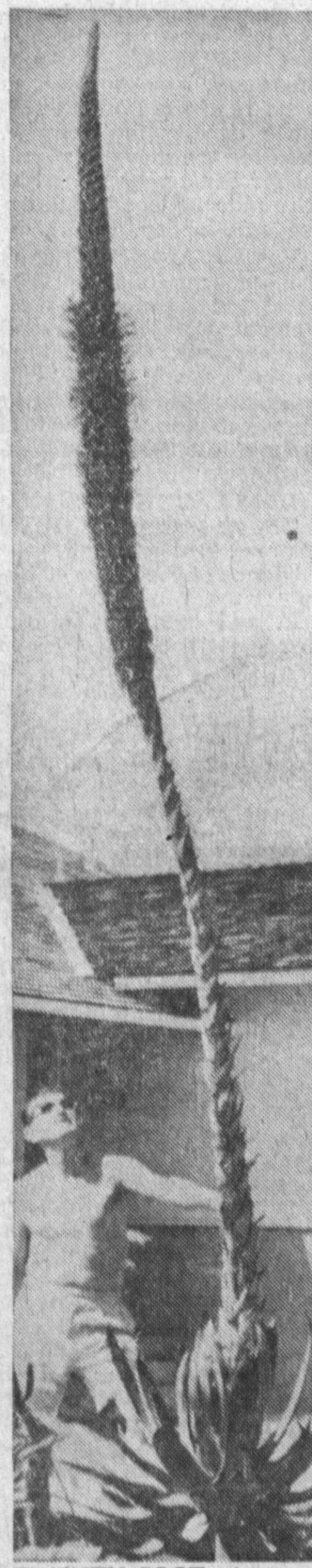
An all girl color guard and drill team is being formed in the Torrance area for parades, contests and competitions.

There are openings for girls between the ages of 12 and 20. No experience is necessary; just lots of fun and good times, mixed with a little hard work.

This organization is being sponsored by the Bert S. Crossland American Legion Post No. 170 of Torrance, 1109 Van Ness Ave. (formerly Border Ave.) Torrance.

Practices are being held Saturday afternoons between 2 and 4 p.m. at the parking lot adjoining the Legion Hall. All girls are welcome.

If given approval, the policy must be reinforced by a city ordinance before it can become effective.



TWENTY FOOT plant, a *Agave Picta*, from Mexico, is growing in the front yard of Mr. Harry Earle at 18535 Dorman Ave. The plant, growing for over ten years, first bloomed this week. Mr. Earle, an amateur gardener, says the plant is still growing.

—PRESS photo

Suspect Strikes Vehicle, Then Assaults Occupants

Two teen-age Torrance girls were beaten Monday night by an unidentified man who previously had repeatedly rammed the car driven by one of the girls' sister in a downtown parking lot.

The girls, Nancy Bernard, 16, of 1219 Fern Ave., and Kathleen Peters, 16, of 1219 Kornblum Ave., were not hospitalized.

Witnesses said the attack was unprovoked.

According to police reports, the car driven by one of the girls had driven onto the parking lot of an ice cream parlor and the car driven by the man pulled up behind them.

When the car behind stopped, one of girls motioned for the driver to pull around her car.

Rammed Car

Instead, he rammed the

rear of the girls car.

"Please stop," pleaded one of the distraught teen-agers.

The man laughed. He backed up his car and began to ram that of the girls.

The excited girls got out of the car only to be met by the driver of the other car.

He struck Nancy Bernard on the face with his fist, knocking her down.

The other girl tried to assist her friend and also was struck and knocked to the ground.

Police are seeking the unidentified attacker.

Homeowners Jam Council Chamber

More than 75 homeowners from the Walteria section of Torrance arrived at city council chambers last night to protest a zone change only to have the person requesting the change withdraw his request.

Albert Levitt, petitioner for the change from A-1 to R-3 of the lots lying northeasterly of Hawthorne Ave. in Walteria, pulled the surprise move, much to the joy of the residents.

Mr. Levitt told the council he was dropping the request for the time being because of plans to purchase other sections of the hill. If these plans come through it will expand the area involved and a new plan would have to be worked out for building both structures and streets.

Councilmen deliberated as to whether or not Mr. Levitt could withdraw his request since it had come this far, so to legalize the matter they voted to concur with the planning commission recommendation, which was for denial of the application.

Before Mr. Levitt left the council chambers, several of the happy homeowners pinned a large sign on his lapel which read "Homes, Not Apartments." All the residents from Walteria who appeared on the rezoning matter were wearing similar badges.

In another matter, councilmen heard residents from the area of 230th St. and Iris Ave. request that their property be left as R-3 and a request for change to R-1 be denied.

It was learned by officials that the area involved was originally zoned R-3 and the homeowners bought the land for this reason.

A zone change had been tried recently to R-1 and was believed to have gone through until City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier discovered that because of failure to properly notify residents of a proposed change the past action was probably not legal.

Councilmen agreed if the homeowners had bought the land believing it to be R-3 it should remain the same, but with restrictions as to what kind of multiple dwellings could be erected.

Critics of City Council Answered by Sciarrotta

At last night's council meeting, Councilman Ross Sciarrotta issued a statement in reply to recent charges that the Torrance City Council has powers that it is not using because "I felt an answer was in order to set the record straight."

Two articles, said Sciarrotta, alleged that council members are derelict in their duties in solving the "police problem," because they do not use the powers they now have.

Sciarrotta added that the critics were right in saying the Council has the power; "but both were wrong when they intimate Council has not made use of this power."

"Long before the assistant District Attorney made his well-publicized raids," said Sciarrotta, "the city manager was asked to inquire into firms available for making a comprehensive study of the police department."

It Takes Time
"Arrangements such as these," said Sciarrotta, "take time and waiting for the right persons to make the investigation also takes time."

Sciarrotta scoffed at the idea that members of the City Council should have made the investigation personally. "The critics are asking the impossible," he said. "It takes experts to uncover anything in a highly specialized department."

"This would be like asking the City Council to go into a bank," said Sciarrotta, "to find out whether or not it is solvent."

He said that such tasks are left to experts and often that the Torrance City Council has powers that it is not using because "I felt an answer was in order to set the record straight."

Sciarrotta said public servants, under civil service rules, cannot be ousted, demoted, or penalized without just cause.

"We all want a clean city," said Sciarrotta. "Often ambitious individuals do a disservice to the community by taking advantage of situations such as this to enhance political aspirations. In this way, they create false images to advance their own cause. Those tactics are self-dom rewarded."

Sciarrotta said he hoped that men from Torrance "will pass the open competitive examination with a high enough score to merit consideration."

City Manager Peebles requested the chiefs to post his letter on bulletin boards so that "all of the officers and men may have an opportunity to personally read and understand my position in this matter."

He added that the individual morale of the officers and men of the departments should be built upon the

Just for Fun . . .

Can a girl have a gleam of humor in her eyes and hide a streak of sadness in her heart at the same time?

Can the fact that a vocal-ist once was a dancer be detected as he sings?

Just for fun, why not turn to the Entertainment Page on C3 and see?

Youth Band to Appear on National TV

The Torrance Area Youth Band, along with 27 other youth bands of the Southern California Youth Band Council, will perform for the half-time activities for the Oklahoma-USA football game at the Coliseum on Saturday afternoon, Sept. 28. The game and entire half-time show will be televised nationally as the "Game of the Week."

The band will leave the Walteria Park via chartered bus for the Coliseum at 8 p.m. The Torrance Junior Youth Band will appear at the Los Angeles County Fair in Pomona on Sunday, Sept. 29. They are scheduled to play a concert there in the Amphitheatre at 2 p.m. The band will travel to the fair by chartered bus, leaving from Walteria Park at 9 a.m. and returning around 8:30 p.m.

Chief Selection Policy Goes Back To Civil Service

Policy of selecting a police and fire chief adopted by the council last week was returned by councilmen last night to the Civil Service Board to receive its recommendation.

A special meeting of the board will be held at 7 p.m. tonight at city hall.

The present plan is to open the examination for police and fire chief to men in the first three ranks of the departments in cities with more than 80,000 population.

If given approval, the policy must be reinforced by a city ordinance before it can become effective.



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"Grapevine Rumors" Indicate Dissatisfaction Over Council Decision, States Peebles' Letter

City Manager Wade Peebles has denied the selection of a new fire or police chief from outside Torrance has already been secretly decided and that was the reason why examinations for the post were thrown open to eligible officers throughout the state.

In a letter directed to both Fire Chief J. J. Benner and Police Chief Percy Bennett, Peebles acknowledged that "grapevine rumors" indicated a dissatisfaction over the decision to go outside Torrance for the new chiefs.

The rumors apparently were to the effect that such action would destroy morale in the departments.

"I sincerely hope," wrote Peebles, "that these rumors will not materialize."

He added that the individual morale of the officers and men of the departments should be built upon the

foundation of personal leadership, technical competence and the spirit of competition.

Then City Manager Peebles came to what seems to be the heart of the matter.

"I have also been advised," he wrote, "that some people believe that an open competitive examination was requested in order that a favorite pre-selected candidate would be chosen."

"I want to unequivocally state," added Peebles, "that no favorite pre-selected candidate is being, will be, or has been considered by this office for either fire or police

chief." The city manager said his desire to have an open examination is "founded on the spirit and philosophy of the democratic civil service system and that recruitment . . . should be commensurate with the highly accelerated growth of the city."

Peebles said he hoped that men from Torrance "will pass the open competitive examination with a high enough score to merit consideration."

City Manager Peebles requested the chiefs to post his letter on bulletin boards so that "all of the officers and men may have an opportunity to personally read and understand my position in this matter."



A TORRANCE LANDMARK is disappearing this week as workmen with huge tractors demolish the old Fish Shanty Restaurant building on Pacific Coast Highway.

The old building will soon be replaced with a new modern structure to again house the restaurant.

—PRESS photo